

Yanks Appear Set at Every Position to Start Drive for Fifth Flag in Row

LACK OF WORRIES WORRIES M'CARTHY

Manager, Surveying Yankees,
in Paradox of Failure to
Detect Any Flaws

VETERANS STILL AT PEAK

Younger Players on Upgrade
—Cold and Rain Cancel
First Game at Memphis

By JOHN DREBINGER
Special to The New York Times.
MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 6—There are times when even the world champion Yankees find obstacles too difficult to surmount. Today it was cold and rain that shackled the Bronx Bombers just when Marse Joe McCarthy was preparing to open the throttle that will send his irresistible machine thundering down the bell lap of the training campaign. The weather wiped out the first of two games scheduled with the Memphis Chicks, leaving only a single engagement, to be played tomorrow. The day's lay-off, however, did not greatly perturb Marse Joe. In fact, nothing seems to be disturbing Marse Joe these days and, paradoxically enough, this alone seems to be giving this singularly resourceful and far-sighted pilot of baseball his only cause for anxiety. He frankly admits things are looking all too well with his champions to last.

Never Looked Stronger
Incredible as it may sound, the Yankees, world champions for four years in a row, never appeared more formidable on the eve of a championship race than they do now. Infield, outfield, pitching, catching, hitting power and reserve strength; in fact, wherever one looks one sees an accomplished performer in an amazingly efficient machine. There is no single weak point. It seems as if the champions, put on their mettle by cries of "Stop the Yanks" and "The Red Sox can do it," are more determined than ever to smash another American League pennant race to smithereens. The infield that last year gave to the club the finest defense the Yankees have ever had is working with the same smoothness. Frank Crosetti is a veteran but as spry as ever, while Red Rolfe is still at his peak and Joe Gordon and Babe Dahlgren have yet to attain theirs. Dahlgren, for one, can be counted upon to hit more consistently than he did last season.

Outfield Improving
In the outfield there are the matchless Joe DiMaggio, ready to launch a .400 hitting campaign, a Charlie Keller who is only beginning to come into his own and two other capable performers, George Selkirk and Tommy Henrich, who are staging a great battle to clinch the third job. Behind the plate, Bill Dickey still ranks as baseball's No. 1 catcher. Heading the reserve corps are Billy Knickerbocker in the infield and Buddy Rosar, who, but for Dickey, would right now be regarded as one of the game's ranking catchers. And in the center of all this there again looms the league's outstanding mound staff. The veterans Charlie Ruffing and Lefty Gomez once again look sound in wind and limb. The rookie sensations of last year, Atley Donald, Marius Russo and Steve Sundra, promise to be joined by another freshman star in Marvin Breuer, and behind this cast there remain such experienced workers as Monte Pearson, Bump Hadley, Oral Hildebrand, Spud Chandler, Johnny Murphy and perhaps Lee Grissom. At the moment there appears to be only one patient in Doc Painter's hospital ward. He is young Tommy Reis, another highly promising freshman, who is suffering from a slight cold in his shoulder. All told, the champions, one might say, look healthy and ready to crack wide open any serious opposition that comes their way.